

DBS Bulletin

Vision: To help people realise their potentialities and dignity, and to create their own destiny

A bi-annual publication on Education, Health and other Social Development projects of the Delhi Brotherhood Society

"We Can"

With the objective to prepare today's youth as a "change agent" for the future and the tomorrows face of society, the Delhi Brotherhood Society in partnership with other development organisations entered into a programme where they have trained 2200 young people for responsible sexual behaviour, understanding the need of society and to raise their voices against violence, whether it is towards them or with others, especially concerning women.

"We Can", a very apt title for this programme, sends the message that today's youth can take and own responsibility for what is happening in and around their surroundings. This programme is a part of the larger programme which is running in seventeen states of India



Youth participating in the "We Can" campaign

and in six countries of Asia. Apart from training youth; other events like rallies, cultural programmes, meetings at the community level, celebration of national and religious festivals are organised to bring together young people in community and fellowship. On 5 December 2006 about 1500 young people gathered at the St. John's Technical Training Centre, Anandgram for a time of celebration and to strengthen their bonds of solidarity. Young girls presented beautiful dances and songs. They expressed their determination to bring change in social behaviour and build healthy interpersonal relationships. The Slogan "We can" resounded loudly along the whole gathering. It was a wonderful time of inspiration and encouragement.

CHILDLINE 1098

The Delhi Brotherhood Society is coordinating a CHILDLINE Programme in the East Zone of Delhi funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The programme has a dedicated phone line 1098, which is a 24 hours emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. CHILDLINE works for the protection of the rights of all children in general with special focus on all children in need of care and protection, especially the more vulnerable sections which include: Street children and young people living alone on the streets; child labourers working in the unorganised and organised sectors; domestic helpers, especially female domestic; children affected by physical or sexual or emotional abuse in family, schools or institutions; children who need



Social worker interacting with the missing children

emotional support and guidance; children of commercial sex workers, child victims of the flesh trade, victims of child

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Activities

Rally on Child Labour

Daily millions of children enter the labour market at an early stage of their lives. There can be various reasons for this; like gender bias, caste, poverty, disability / health, religion, ideology and culture etc. However, this pattern is a growing menace to young minds. The 1991 Census estimated that there were 11.2 million workers in India below the age of 14 years whereas estimates from various other sources put this figure to much higher - ranging from 44 to 100 million. Towards this concern, DBS CHILDLINE organised a rally with the Labour Department of the Delhi Government and other NGOs to make the public aware of this problem. Around 250 members from various NGOs took part in the rally and distributed pamphlets, shouted slogans against child labour. The rally was inaugurated by Mr. V.K. Rao, Deputy Commissioner of Child Labour department in the the Delhi State Government..

Women's Day Celebration

Every year on March, 8 International Womens' Day, is celebrated by the DBS with great fervour primarily to highlight the condition of women. Despite all progress made so far, the condition of women continues to be largely



Young people preseting a skit on Womens' International Day

deplorable. This year's theme, for the Womens' Day was "Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls". Adhering to this theme the Women Empowerment Department of DBS organized a rally. 350 women and Girls took part in it. The rally later culminated on at the lawns of the Brotherhood House at Court Lane. The programme was graced by the Station House Officer of East Delhi area Mr. Vipin Bhatia. Various cultural programmes were presented by women and girls including plays on Dowry and awareness through a skit on HIV/ AIDS. The girls and community women thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Study visit of the Automobile trainees

Several courses are offered to the young trainees at St. John's VTTC run by the Delhi Brotherhood Society. This year the automobile trainees were taken for their study visit to the ITI CRPF (Technical Institute of Central Reserve



Automobile trainees in their practical class

Police Force) which has setup a new automobile laboratory fitted with the modern training technologies. The educational tour was attended by almost all the trainees. The trainees were instructed about the new technologies and how they could be used with the CNG method. The trainees enjoyed their tour immensely and thanked the faculty for organising such a meet which helped them to update their knowledge of this industry.

Festival on Public-Private Partnership

At the Gender Resource Centre various vocational training programmes are being offered to young women. A stall was displayed of their art and craft at the Bhagidari Utsav a programme of Delhi Government wherein every year the Government showcases its achievements through various programmes on good governance done under public-private partnership. The items put up by these young people were very much appreciated by the people who attended the Utsav.

Sport Day Celebration

The Sports Day was celebrated as usual with great enthusiasm at the Deenabndhu School on 9th February 2007. Children from all schools took part in the events. A presentation of yoga exercise was very attractive. The occasion was graced by the presence of Fr. Ian Weathrall, the Chairman of the Schools Governing Body and the local counsellor. Prizes were distributed at the end of the function which also included prizes for many other events held in the course of the year.

There are many programmes aimed at the betterment of adolescent girls and women but not adolescent boys. These boys are also as vulnerable as the girls of the same age. The programme for formation of a 'Youth Brigade' started with the support of Action India and Delhi Commission for Women (DCW). Since the voice of these young boys would always be unheard in front of experienced men and women of the community, a brigade of 15 boys has been formed. They are supported by the trained paralegal workers from the Delhi Brotherhood Society. Whenever these boys come face to face with problems in the community, they are followed by paralegal workers and with their help and support the problems are sorted out.

Celebration of Deenbandhu Andrews Day

Deenbandhu schools have both Formal and Non-Formal systems, which help to serve the needs of underprivileged children from disturbed backgrounds. In the month of April the Schools celebrated the Deenbandhu Andrews Day. On this occasion the teachers took the special assembly and shared with the students about this great personality and his thought as well as his role in India's freedom movement. Presently, all the schools are preparing the children for the final exams. The remedial classes are being run for those students who are in need of help and support and they are being given time in the remedial classes so that they may perform better in the final exams.

Another project in which the Delhi Brotherhood Society embarked upon is the Voice against Female Foeticide in the community. With the advancement in technology, where there are various advantages and improvement of things around us, there are certain disadvantages as well. Advancement in medical technology has led to the detection of the sex of the foetus in the mother's womb. Indian society being patriarchal gives a lot of importance to the male in comparison to females. With this technology illiterate women come under pressure from their men folk in the family and undergo such a test when they are pregnant. "Nari Shakti Vahini" (Women Power Group) is a group of women who are "watchdogs" of the community against such abnormality. They not only educate the women against female foeticide but also prevent them from doing so. This project is running in the Kalander Colony and Dilshad Colony areas situated at the eastern border of Delhi.

Holi Celebration in HIV/AIDS Project

Holi is the festival of colours. On this occasion everybody plays with colours and also forgets differences among themselves. They meet one another and share food. Keeping the tradition of this auspicious occasion the Project staff of the HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention Project celebrated the festival of Holi with their beneficiaries on 3 March, 2007. All the beneficiaries starting from injecting drug users to, men having sex with men, eunuchs and HIV infected persons attended this function. They all together celebrated the festival by participating in the dances, songs and other festivities without discrimination. At the end of the program sweets were distributed to all.

MAHILA PANCHAYAT

Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) started a new initiative for women empowerment through Legal awareness and formation of Mahila Panchayats (Women Councils). The programme is supported by the Delhi Commission for Women. Mahila Panchayats are innovative collective approach for community participation in dispute redressal. The DBS with the help of committed field workers tries to motivate community women to come forward and join the Mahila Panchayat Members as volunteers. These members are then trained in legal issues, dispute redressal mechanism, trained in laws relevant to crimes against women, given exposure about the existing legal position regarding property,

maintenance, marriage, custody, etc. They are also given training in counselling, writing out an FIR, pursuing with police station, and procedures for legal recourse. The Mahila Panchayats itself acts as a "Watch Dog" and its members, after orientation, and training, can handle delicate and sensitive family disputes. They find solutions at local level through the workers in the field itself. Lawyers are linked up to these panchayat to provide legal aid and assistance in the need. The Delhi Brotherhood Society's different Mahila Panchayat intervene in approximately 40-50 cases a month involving women in distress and have successfully solved most of them at the local level.

The Bulandshahr Project

In view of the fact that the programmes needed to be expanded the members of the Delhi Brotherhood approved further outreach in, what is now declared as the Greater Delhi Region. Two and half acres of land have been procured in Bulandshahr, about 100 KM east of Delhi in Uttar Pradesh. The aim is to establish a branch of the Deenbandhu School, a Home for Physically Challenged children and a Social Centre with ample space for play grounds. The land is surrounded by villages, yet not far from Bulandshahr town.

The Bhopura Project

The lease Agreement between DBS and Anadgram Samiti will soon end. We have therefore decided to procure an alternative site for shifting the St. John's Vocational Technical Training Centre. Accordingly 2000 sq. metre of land has been procured at Bhopura village, very close to the present place. This will enable us to continue to serve the people of this area.

The Hooper Memorial Church

The Diocese of Agra very graciously has decided to lend us Hooper Memorial Church which is presently in a redundant state. It is on the Mussoorie hill about 6500 feet above sea level. The place would be used initially to house the Charis Home of HIV/Aids affected children and later as training centre.

How you can help?

It had been a hard exercise for us this year to raise funds to acquire the land in Bulandshahr and Bhopura for expanding the Brotherhood's work. We are now looking for those of you who would help us to construct the infrastructure and facilities on these sites. This is a task of immediate priority. We do need your help. How can you do this? By raising the interest of your church, club and family; you can introduce out Delhi Brotherhood Society's work to new possible donors or funding partners. We are sure that you will be able to help us in this very important and worthwhile task. Thank you so much.

SELF HELP GROUPS

17 groups of SHGs have been formed by the community women. These women SHGs are established in Dilshad Colony and Kalandar Colony and have various activities to their credit. They not only solve problems among themselves but also help each other in financial need. The groups have started inter-lending among themselves. They have also saved money and have 2 lakhs deposit in different banks. These groups have been linked to the banks so that they can take the money on loan when they are in need. One of the group named as "Mahak" also put up a stall of handicraft items at Delhi Haat a very "happening place" in South Delhi.

People in India and abroad can help us by sending their donations through a crossed cheque drawn in favour of "**Delhi Brotherhood Society**". Contributions from within India are entitled for Income Tax relief under Section 80G. Kindly address the envelop to the Fr. Ian Weathrall, the Chairman.

People in U.K may also channel their donations through the **Christopher Robinson Fund** (eligible for Gift Aid). For details please contact *The Treasurer, Christopher Robinson Fund, c/o Barclay Bank, Benet Street, Cambridge CB2 3PZ.*

Those who wish to support the education of underprivileged children can do so through the **Wye & Brook India Trust**. For further details please contact *Ms. Sheila Child, Wye & Brook India Trust, 8 Taylor's Yard, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BT. Tel:01233 812209, email: wandbit@aol.com*

Please also mention the purpose, for which your money should be utilised, if you wish. For more information on any of our projects please write to us or visit us.

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trafficking; children abandoned by parents or guardians, missing children, run away children; children who are victims of substance abuse, differently-abled children; children in conflict with the law; children in institutions; mentally challenged children; HIV/AIDS infected children; children affected by conflict and disaster, child political refugees, children whose families are in crisis.

With all these objectives in place, the DBS CHILDLINE project receives 5000 calls a month on an average. Out of these 50 children are repatriated, 8-10 children are sent to various homes and provided shelters and follow up of 30-40 cases are done on a monthly basis.